

REMARKS

Claims 6-14 had been pending in the case. Claims 6 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph for reasons of written description and enablement. Claims 6-14 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) and §103(a). Other claims are free of art rejections.

§112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 6, and 12-14 as failing to meet the written description and for enablement. Claims 6, and 12-13 have been canceled. Thus the rejection is moot to these claims and Applicants respectfully ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 14, Applicants point out that claim 14 is dependent upon claim 8 which is dependent upon claim 7 not claim 6. Applicants believe claim 14 meets both the written description requirement and is properly enabled and the rejection as to claim 14 was a typographical error. Claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 11, having only different dependencies.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

§112, Second Paragraph

Claims 6-14 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With reference to paragraph 5 (a-c, f) of the Examiner's action, Applicants note that claim 6 (and claims dependent on claim 6) has been canceled and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn as to those claims.

With reference to Claims 7 and 9 (see Examiner's action, paragraph 5 (d)(e) and (g)) the Examiner has made suggestions as to overcoming the rejection. The claims have been amended in accordance with the suggestions. It is believed that the amendments to these claims overcome these rejections. Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions.

§102 (b) and §103(a)

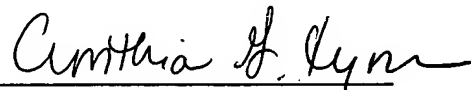
The Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 USC as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al (US 6,338,946) under 102(b) and under §103 as being obvious over Grassberger (US 5,665,727), Fujisawa (WO 91/02736), Fujisawa (WO 91/17754) or (WO 92/00313) Claims 6 has been cancelled. Thus, the rejection is moot to this claim.

No New Matter in New Claims 15 and 16

Claims 15 and 16 are supported in the specification at paragraphs 12 and 13 and original claims 2 and 4. These claims are being presented to cover embodiments that were part of now cancelled claim 6.

Applicants submit that the amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any matter that she would like to address.

Respectfully submitted,



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